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15 September 1995

Dr. Jon A. Sjogren
Department of the Air Force
Air Force Office of Scientific Research
110 Duncan Avenue, Suite B115
Bolling Air Force Base, DC 20332-0001

Dear Dr. Sjogren:

I am enclosing the final report on the AFOSR grant (# F4620-94-1-0190) which partially supported the R.C. Bose Memorial Conference on Statistical Design and Related Combinatorics.

A copy of form SP298 is also enclosed.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.N. Srivastava", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom left.

J.N. Srivastava
Professor

cc: Dorothy Rein, Administrator
Office of Sponsored Programs

REPORT ON THE R.C. BOSE MEMORIAL CONFERENCE ON STATISTICAL DESIGN AND RELATED COMBINATORICS

This conference was held at the campus of Colorado State University, on June 7-11, 1995.


The organizing Committee consisted of J.N. Srivastava (Chair), and 16 other people including: Adriano Barlotti, Ching-Shui Cheng, Michael Deza, Paul Erdős, Peter Hammer, Frank Harary, Sam Hedayat, R.C. Mullin, C.R. Rao, D.K. Raychaudhari, Gian-Carlo Rota, Bruce Rothschild, Jennifer Seberry, Esther Seiden, R.G. Stanton, and S. S. Shrikhande.

There were about 140 registered participants, excluding the local people from Colorado. There were eighty two invited speakers, and about 28 people presented contributed papers.

People who presented papers (either invited or contributed) have been encouraged to send their papers for inclusion in the "Proceedings" of the conference. Many other prominent persons who were unable to physically participate in the conference have also been encouraged to send papers to the "Proceedings". The word "Proceedings", however, should not be interpreted in the usual sense. In our case, the Proceedings will consist of a Special Issue of JSPI (Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference), called the "Bose Conference Issue of JSPI" (or BCI-JSPI).

The BCI-JSPI will differ from ordinary proceedings in the sense that only journal type articles will be published. All articles will be refereed at the same level and at the high standards of JSPI. They will all be subject to acceptance and rejection.

It is important to note that the field of the conference has immense practical applications. Ever since R.C. Bose and others popularized Design Combinatorics and Combinatorics in general, in the forties, fifties and sixties, the world has seen an explosion in this field. This is evident from the number of new journals, which have grown in this field probably more than in any other field. This is because the fields have fundamental applications not only to statistical aspects of scientific experimentation, but also to other vast areas such as communication, computer science, electrical engineering, confidentiality, information storage and retrieval, etc.



This was a large and great conference. Large financial support was given by AirForce, Army and Colorado State University. Minor support was also given by Institute of Combinatorics, and two individuals, (Constantine and Srivastava). Significant support was also given by hundreds of institutions around the world who, partially or wholly, paid for the travel and other expenses of their own scientists who participated in the conference. In terms of free time, the conference consumed the equivalent of nine months of full time effort of Srivastava, plus large chunks of time also from his family members, research associates and students.

It is gratifying that, around the world, the conference has been perceived as one of the greatest ever. For example, S.S. Shrikhande, one of the most eminent combinatorists of the century, writes: "I believe this is the greatest conference I have ever been to in my life."

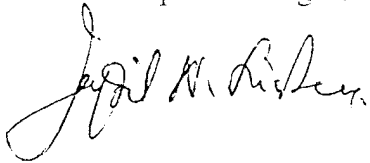
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Final Report on AirForce Grant Number (# F4620-94-1-0190)

This grant was given to partly support the R.C. Bose Memorial Conference on Statistical Design and Related Combinatorics.

Thus, a report on the above grant is actually a report ~~on the~~ above conference. The latter is enclosed.

J.N. Srivastava
Principal Investigator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J.N. Srivastava", written in dark ink.